

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS22930

The purpose of this legislation is to improve student safety by addressing the allocation of the public schools' share of Cigarette Tax revenues and the recommendations of the Safe Schools Task Force. On the issue of the distribution of the public schools' share of Cigarette Tax revenues, this legislation codifies the longtime practice of distributing \$200,000 to the Idaho State Police to defray toxicology lab costs, and approximately \$80,000 to the Commission on Hispanic Affairs for substance abuse prevention efforts. These distributions would be made directly to these agencies, rather than being passed through the public schools budget first, which adds no value or transparency to the distribution. This legislation also increases school district flexibility in the use of the balance of these funds by broadening its uses to include the development and implementation of school safety improvements, in addition to the traditional substance abuse prevention uses. As recommended by the task force, it also requires school trustees to have a school safety plan for each school, and to meet annually with first responders to update the plans.

FISCAL NOTE

By rounding the allocation of funds to the nearest \$10,000, this legislation shifts \$1,400 out of a total of \$4,700,000 in dedicated funds from Public Schools to the Commission on Hispanic Affairs.

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